

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 /088 W

-----070858Z 052999 /1311

R 041401Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT EPTT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMAFSCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0325

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT LINE)

ROME PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR LODGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS

SUBJ: SOOUTHERN LEBANESE CHRISTIANS APPEAL FOR
INTERNATIONAL HELP

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANESE
CHRISTIANS FROM EIN EBEL MARCH 3 APPEALED TO
APOSTOLIC DELEGATE AND CONSULS GENERAL
OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE TO END SHELLING BY "PALESTINIAN
PROGRESSIVES." APOSTOLIC DELEGATES WILLING
FORWARD REQUEST FOR HUMANITARIAN HELP. CONSULS
INFORMING BRUSSELS AND PARIS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON MARCH 3, DELEGATION OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS
FROM EIN EBEL HEADED BY MAYOR SAKAR, ACCOMPANIED
BY REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAELI COMMITTEE FOR AID TO
LEBANON, AN ISRAELI ARAB FROM HAIFA NAMED MATTAR,
APPEALED TO APOSTOLIC DELEGATE AND CONSULS GENERAL
OF BELGIUM AND FRANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO

STOP HEAVY SHEELING OF THEIR VILLAGE AND NEARBY
CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENTS BY "PALESTINIAN PROGRESSIVES."

3. IN COURSE OF THEIR PRESENTATION, FOLLOWING
STATEMENTS EMERGED:

A. DURING EARLIER FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, ISRAELI
EQUIPPED CHRISTIAN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH
SHERMAN TANKS AND TRAINED THEM TO OPERATE
EQUIPMENT. TANKS AND OTHER ISRAELI-FURNISHED
ARMS WERE USED AGAINST NEIGHBORING MOSLEM FORCES.

B. PREVIOUSLY, WHEN MOSLEM VILLAGES SHELLED
EIN EBEL, HEAVY IDF ARTILLERY FROM INSIDE ISRAEL
WOULD REPLY PROMPTLY AND THIS HAD EFFECT OF STOPPING MOSLEM
BARRAGE. NOW, SUCH FIRE SUPPORT NO LONGER AVAILABLE.

C. EIN EBEL AND NEARBY CHRISTIAN VILLAGES WITH COMBINED
POPULATION OF AROUND 20,000 NOW BEING SHELLED 6 AND 7
HOURS A DAY BY MOSLEM ARTILLERY. SHERMAN TANKS
ARE INEFFECTIVE IN THIS SITUATION. TOWN HAS NO
SHELTERS AND EVEN DEAD MUST BE BURIED AT NIGHT. CHRISTIANS ARE CUT
OFF FROM CO-RELIGIONISTS IN EL QLAIA REGION.

D. AS LONG AS SYRIANS WERE IN NABATIYAH, THIS
HAD RESTRAINING INFLUENCE. NOW THAT SYRIANS HAVE
PULLED BACK, COMPLETE ANARCHY EXISTS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

4. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE POINTED OUT VATICAN COULD
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DO NOTHING BEYOND POSSIBLE APPEAL FOR PEACE AND
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE SOUTH LEBANON
CUT OFF FROM NUNCIO AND ICRC IN BEIRUT, HE PROMISED FORWARD
REQUEST TO ROME. BELGIAN AND FRENCH CONSULS SIMPLY
PROMISED FORWARD REPORT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS.

5. JERUSALEM POST MARCH 4 HAS FRONT PAGE STORY
STATING 17-MAN DELEGATION OF LEBANESE CHRISTIANS
MADE APPEAL TO VATICAN AND TO BELGIAN AND FRENCH
DIPLOMATS WITHOUT GIVING ANY NAMES OR OTHER DETAILS.

6. COMMENT: BELGIAN AND FRENCH CONSULS OBSERVED
THAT LEBANESE CHRISTIANS, AFTER HAVING BEEN SUPPORTED
BY GOI FOR FIFTEEN MONTHS, NOW FEEL ABANDONED AND
FEAR MASSACRE.
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Message Attributes

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